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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 /068 W
---------- 129859
R 301017Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2068
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10473

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT JA
SUBJ: PRIMIN MIKI MEETS LDP DIET MEMBERS

1. AS PRELUDE TO HIS EARLY AUGUST U.S. VISIT, PRIMIN MIKI MET JULY 29 WITH ASSEMBLY OF LDP DIET MEMBERS FROM BOTH HOUSES. HE TOLD GROUP HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS WITH U.S. LEADERS HOW ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY. HE STRESSED THAT COOPERATIVE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP WAS FOUNDATION OF JAPAN'S DIPLOMATIC POLICY.
AS FOR DEFENSE, MIKI SAID JAPAN WOULD MAINTAIN DEFENSE EFFORT APPROPRIATE TO NATIONAL STRENGTH AND HEW FIRMLY TO U.S.- JAPAN MUTUAL SECURITY
SYSTEM.

2. ON DOMESTIC THEMES, MIKI DISCLAIMED ANY INTENTION OF CHENGING HIS APPROACH OF "DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION" WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES, BUT ALSO NOTED HE WOULD NOT CHANGE NATURE OF LDP WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE'S PARTY. HE URGED QUICK ACTION ON
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MODERNIZATION OF THE LDP, SPECIFICALLY ON AGREEMENT ON REFORM

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OF PARTY PROCEDURES FOR ELECTING A PRESIDENT (AND PRIME MINISTER) AND PARTY FINANCES. HE SAID EMPHATICALLY HE WAS NOT THINKING OF DISSOLUTION OF THE DIET.

3. RESPONDING TO HOSTILE QUESTIONS FROM YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE OHIRA AND TANAKA FACTIONS, HE DENIED ANY NEED FOR RE-ENDORSEMENT OF HIS PRESIDENCY OF THE LDP. LAST DECEMBER, HE SAID, ALL AGREED HE WAS SELECTED FOR THREE-YEAR TERM.

4. MIKI'S COMMENTS ON HIS POLICY AND DEFENSE THEMES ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION IN THE PRESS ALTHOUGH THEY STRUCK US AS A BIT MORE HARDNOSED THAN USUAL, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH LDP HAWKS JULY 28. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, HIS "FIRM DENIAL" OF THOUGHT OF DIET DISSOLUTION IS NOT TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY HERE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE. DECEMBER 7 OR 14 ARE NOW WIDELY RUMORED AS POSSIBLE GENERAL ELECTION DATES WITH THE FORMER SLIGHTLY FAVORED. PRESS CONCENTRATED ITS ATTENTION ON THE ABSENCE OF MANY OF THE LEADERS OF THE TANAKA AND OHIRA FACTIONS BUT, DESPITE THEIR CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS WITH MIKI, WE BELIEVE THEIR EFFORT TO FORCE HIM TO SUBMIT TO RE-ENDORESEMENT BY THE PARTY IS MOST UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED.
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